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*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

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Summary-

Señor Don Quixote is traveling in the mountain ranges known as the Sierra Morena. As they come out of the mountain range, Sancho declares that he no longer wishes to be his squire, and to return to his family. This is very sensible on Sancho’s part, as he knows not what sort of mischief into which his master will get him. Don Quixote grants this request with the assistance of Rocinante, as Sancho’s donkey was stolen while traveling through the mountain ranges. However, there is one stipulation; Sancho must deliver a letter to Dulcinea from The Knight of the Rueful Countenance. Sancho makes three days journey when he reaches the inn at which they had previously stayed. Here, he reencounters the Barber and Curate. They wonder where Don Quixote is, and say Sancho must prove he has not killed Don Quixote and taken his horse, as they expect. Thus, Sancho reaches for the note to Dulcinea that Don Quixote only to find that it is not there and that Don Quixote never gave it to him. Sancho tells what has occurred and they all decide to go and rescue Don Quixote from his madness, and return him home.

As they are on their way to Don Quixote, the Barber and Curate tell Sancho to go ahead as they are near to his location. The Curate and Barber hear someone singing, upon further inspection they find a man in the forest. They find his name is Cardenio and that he came to the forest after the girl he had pledged himself to, married another man by the name of Don Fernando. These three than heard another voice. They came behind a shepherd boy, but then he took off his hat and they discovered it was actually a shepherdess. It turned out that she ran away after the man she had loved married another woman. It just so turned out that her love was Don Fernando. She was working for a shepherd until he found that she was a she. These four reworked their plan to get Don Quixote back home. Dorothea, the woman they just met, plays the role of Princess Micomicona; a damsel in distress for a giant has taken over her kingdom. The others play her servants. They come upon Don Quixote, Princess Micomicona tells that he is such a famous knight-errant, and that he must help her. Therefore, he decides he will. At this, they return to the inn.

Analysis-

YAY! The repetitiveness is finally over. It is no longer just one pointless adventure after another. I really like how Cervantes is adding new characters because they add so much to the piece. I was getting really tired of the Quixote and Panza story. It is like a breath of fresh however. However, I really think Cervantes goes too in depth with the characters. He will spend about three chapters on the backstory of each character. Overall, I really like the direction in which the story is headed.

Application-

This portion of the book was almost strictly about one human characteristic. That characteristic is love. First, Sancho shows his love for his family, as he wants to return to them. Don Quixote also exhibits his undying love for Dulcinea through the love letter that he writes to her. In addition, he is willing to do so much for her to show he is worthy of her love. Then there are Cardenio and Dorothea, and they are both two love stories. They both tell of how they had a person that was the love of their life. They thought that they would marry this person. However, they come to find that their love deserted them for someone else. Each the other’s love nonetheless.